



Program Criteria Comparison

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE TRACK

and

NORTH CAROLINA ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE



National Environmental Performance Track and the North Carolina Environmental Stewardship Initiative are voluntary programs designed to foster and reward environmental excellence. Performance Track is a national EPA program and the Environmental Stewardship Initiative is a statewide Department of Natural Resources program. This fact sheet summarizes and compares criteria for the Performance Track program and the Environmental Steward level of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (the program has three levels: Environmental Partner, Rising Environmental Steward, and Environmental Steward). For additional information on these programs or incentives, see program web sites or contact program coordinators.

Common Program Criteria:

- *EMS Components:* Common elements include: an EMS with a written policy, planned targets and goals, clear roles and responsibilities for meeting goals, plans for checking and correcting non-conformance issues, and documented management review.
- *EMS Cycle:* Facility must have completed one full EMS cycle including implementation, evaluation, and review.
- *EMS Self-Assessment:* Facility must conduct regular EMS self-assessments and compliance audits.
- *EMS Independent Assessment:* An independent EMS assessment is to have taken place at the time of application.
- *Future Performance:* Facility must make a commitment to future performance improvements.
- *Community Outreach:* Facility must provide a plan to identify and respond to local concerns and inform community of important matters that affect it.
- *Compliance Record:* Facility must pass a comprehensive compliance screen covering federal, state, and local regulations.
- *Annual Report:* Report must include EMS data and progress toward meeting goals, and include documentation that corrective action has been taken to address compliance and other EMS issues.
- *Self-Certification:* Senior facility manager must certify that all statements in application and annual reports are true, accurate, and complete.

Environmental Stewardship Initiative - Environmental Steward - Additional Criteria:

- *EMS Integration:* Facility must demonstrate that EMS has been implemented into core business activities.
- *Future Performance:* All commitments must be significant to the facility's EMS and demonstrate rigor commensurate with the nature, scale, and environmental impact of the facility.
- *Community Outreach:* Facility must demonstrate that it has implemented procedures for community communication.
- *Mentorship:* Facility must agree to mentor other facilities at Environmental Partner and Rising Environmental Steward levels.
- *Site Visits:* Application review includes site visit.
- *Membership Term:* Membership is for five years.

Performance Track - Additional Criteria:

- *Past Performance:* Facility must demonstrate performance improvements for two environmental indicators (one indicator for small facilities). Commitments must be reported in a standard format and performance for most commitments must be normalized.
- *Future Performance:* Facility must make a commitment to future performance improvements for four environmental indicators from at least two unique categories (two indicators for small facilities). Performance for most commitments must be normalized.
- *Community References:* Facility must provide community references (e.g., member of a citizen group, union, local agency).
- *Compliance Record:* Facility must pass a compliance screen for the past three years for civil violations and five years for criminal violations.
- *Site Visits:* Periodic site visits are conducted as part of the program.
- *Membership Term:* Membership is for three years.

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